



Nashville Catholic Business Women's League

P.O. Box 50994 | Nashville, TN 37205

Minutes of the Meeting

May 17, 2023

Coco's Italian Market & Restaurant, Nashville, TN

Welcome & Call to Order:

At 6:00 p.m., President Claudia Weber welcomed all to the meeting and shared the Mission and Vision of NCBWL. She asked new members (Mary Speciale joined since the April meeting), guests, and Board members to individually stand for recognition. She acknowledged the previous Board for transition of the new Board members. Claudia announced that Lynne Warne and the previous Board had created a new member packet. She acknowledged our evening's speaker from Habitat for Humanity, Veronica Anderson. After grace, dinner was served.

Attendance:

30 members

9 guests

39 Total attendees

Father John Sims Baker and Sister Mary Peter Muelenkamp were unable to attend. Sister Mary Peter is celebrating her 25th anniversary of religious service. **Post-Meeting Note:** Mother Anna Grace is also celebrating 25 years of Dominican Sisterhood. Cards will be mailed to both sisters.

Reflection:

Jennie Guinn shared highlights from her third trip to Medjugorje, in April. She noted that English mass was held at 10:00 a.m. There were activities in the village followed by the evening program, international mass, and confessions. As Jennie relayed, Mary encourages all people to embrace her son and have an intimate relationship with him through the sacraments. The apparitionist shared a message from Mary, "GO IN JOY!" Later in the evening, Patti Matsen was awarded the Medjugorje gift.

Program:

Introduction -

Lisa Link spoke of members' opportunity to 'put faith into action' by participating in the 03-June Women's Build for Habitat for Humanity. 20 volunteers (men and women) are needed from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for siding and insulation. No experience is required; training will be provided. Interested individuals should e-mail Lisa or sign up on-line. Lisa introduced guest speaker Veronica Anderson, Habitat of Humanity, Community Relations Manager of Wilson County.

Guest Speaker, Veronica Anderson, Habitat for Humanity, Wilson County –

The Women's Builds occur every three to four years. There will be eight build days, and Lisa is responsible for the 03-Jun build date. Four (4) two-story town-homes will be built in Mt. Juliet. Women organize the build and raise funds. Grants of \$66,000 were received to date, leaving \$7,000 remaining to be raised. During the last 31 years, 92 homes have been built in Wilson County. Individuals apply for homes at habitatnashville.org and complete a 25-page application. 200 applications were received for four homes to be built with 0% interest, 30-year mortgages. Each potential home-owner is required to attend one year of classes. The Financial Empowerment Center offers a 12-week financial class. Home Maintenance classes include topics such as

changing air conditioning filters every two-three months, how to get along with neighbors, etc. Legal aspects include the reminder that the home is being purchased, and the buyer is responsible for making repairs. There is a special Deed of Trust that goes along with the mortgage. The buyer has to pay their mortgage payment on-time each month, maintain home repairs, maintain the yard, and ensure that they are not involved in crime. Pictures of each home are required annually to ensure that the property is being maintained. Reminder letters are sent to home-owners if pictures are not received.

Jackie Russell, who assists counties with paperwork, was introduced. The delinquency and bankruptcy rate is very low. There has been one individual who defaulted in the last eight years. Habitat has the right to buy back the home if the home-owner wants a larger home. If the selling price is more than the amount paid for the home, Habitat gets most of the proceeds, via 'shared appreciation.' Of the 92 homes built, 28 mortgages have been paid off. There are 58 active mortgages. The average appraised value is \$304,000 for the tall/skinny 3 bedroom/2 bathroom homes. Each individual is pre-approved for a certain dollar amount, which is what he/she pays. The variance is a third 'silent' mortgage. It is silent until the buyer defaults or sells the property. If the buyer stays in the home 30 years, the third mortgage does not have to be paid. Homeowners are given the key to the home which includes a Bible, a flag, and a personal blessing when they move in!

Patricia Smith shared stories about the four Habitat for Humanity T-shirts donated from prior builds that will be raffled to individuals who have made on-line donations or make donations at the meeting. \$600 was donated on-line, and \$1,000 was raised at the meeting for a total of \$1,600. At the conclusion of the evening, T-shirts were awarded to: Patti Matsen, Tricia Casa Santa, Lauren Barca, and Mary Speciale.

Vega Designs NCBWL Fundraising Opportunity –

Ashley Vega and her husband Miguel, owners of Vega Designs, have offered to pledge \$1.00 to NCBWL for every tumbler sold in any order that references NCBWL. Thought-provoking, promotional queries were raised: Do you know a graduating senior? One tumbler sold brings \$1.00 to NCBWL. Do you know a football team that may want to sell water bottles as a fundraiser? 80 tumblers means \$80.00 to NCBWL. Do you know a large corporation that needs 10,000 tumblers? 10,000 tumblers is \$10,000 to NCBWL!

At the meeting, Ashley raffled six tumblers with the NCBWL logo. Winners were: Sharon Alderman: golf tumbler; Donna Englert: pink low ball tumbler; Claudia Weber: yellow wine tumbler; Deb Fay: 20 oz water bottle; Sandra MacSweeney: 32 oz water bottle; Karoline Mahoney: light blue 20 oz tumbler.

Business Meeting:

President Report - Claudia acknowledged 2023 high school graduates: Naomi Mejia, St. Cecilia, and Mia Picchietti, Pope Prep. **Post-Meeting Note:** Tricia Casa Santa mailed graduation cards on Thursday, May 18.

President-Elect Report - Sandra MacSweeney noted that Alivio Health is a primary care/functional medicine clinic and Medspa. Open House was held last Thursday. For any NCBWL member who comes to Alivio Health for a service, \$20.00 will be donated to NCBWL.

Secretary Update - Claudia brought several copies of the minutes from the 04-May Board Meeting and asked that interested parties pick up a copy upon departure. With regrets, Trish Cronin was unable to attend tonight.

Treasurer's Report - Karoline Mahoney reported:

Total March Revenue	\$3,239.82
Net Operating Revenue	\$29,455.18
Total Mar Expenses	\$12,260.66 (which includes \$10,000 St. Michael Scholarship Transfer)
Net Operating Income	\$17,194.52
Reserve/Designated Funds	\$2,732.73 (\$2,037.73 in the Father O'Bryan Fund and \$695.00 for Retired Sisters in 2023)
Total Operating Income	\$14,461.79

Karoline purchased new name tags for meetings.

Spiritual Life Chair Update - Jennie Guinn will research retreat options for 2023; perhaps NCBWL can join an established Church retreat.

Membership/Recruitment Update - Ellen Wade reported 113 total NCBWL members including silver and honorary members. NCBWL dues are \$55.00.

Programs Chair Update - Mary Rolando reported upcoming programs: June - 'Nurture the Next', speaker Melanie Scott, and July - St. Michael Academy, speaker Shana Druffner.

Publicity/Communication Chair Update - Claudia noted that an hourly contract for Cora Newcomb to share her website expertise with the new Board, had been approved by the Board. Patricia Smith prepared the NCBWL ad for placement in the TN Register. She asked that individual members provide content for the Newsletter. For example, last month we learned that the St. Henry St. Vincent de Paul Society had a client who needed a reliable used car and had a budget of \$3,000-\$4,000.

Social Media Chair Update - Kelley Colopietro provided entertainment at the April meeting and was unable to attend tonight.

Social Action Chair Update - Carol Ann Fernandez reported that in June, we will collect NEW items (baby products, diapers, etc.) for 'Nurture the Next.' Catholic Charities of TN received \$300 in gift cards and several personal care items from members and guests attending the April meeting.

Special Events Co-Chairs Update - Lauren Barca and Courtney Conklin are co-chairs of Pearls of Wisdom which will be held at Richland Country Club on Friday, October 6. Features: Black Tie optional, valet, plated dinner, and live and silent auction. Members are encouraged to buy individual tickets or fill a table and secure auction items. There will be no October members meeting.

Hospitality Chair Update - Tricia Casa Santa reported that 10 birthday cards have been sent to date. Beginning during May, St. Francis holy cards will be included with birthday cards. She asked members to provide their birth month and day with their personal details for the membership list so that cards could be sent.

NCBWL Fundraising Opportunities - Tricia reported that the most recent Kroger Cares check for the period of 11/29/22 - 3/1/23 was \$70.60, with 18 participating households. Members were encouraged to link their Kroger Cares cards to NCBWL. Details are included on the website. PayPal Giving Fund has contributed \$10.00 to NCBWL. Other options for donations to NCBWL include Alivio Health and Vega Designs.

Parliamentarian Report - Connie Allison reviewed/approved the contractual agreement with Cora Newcomb. Bylaws were updated and are included in new member packets.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m., and the Closing Prayer – The Memorare - was recited by attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Casa Santa
5/17/23 recording officer

and

Trish Cronin
Secretary